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Notes of the Week

WHATEVER necessary secrecy there has been respecting the proceedings of the Imperial Conference, the utmost publicity has been given to those of the Economic Conference. As England and the Empire are situated at present, the question of inter-Empire economics is of hardly less importance than the question of Empire foreign policy. We note, indeed, that Mr. Bruce, the Australian Premier, went so far as to say, when speaking at the Australian and New Zealand Luncheon Club, that the conference had no hope of solving the great and grave questions that it was considering unless the economic problem could be solved. We agree very thoroughly with him when he went on to say that this and other problems would not be solved by talking platitudes or passing pious resolutions. Well, Mr. Bruce's plea for an increased preference was answered by Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame's tabling of the proposals of our Government, and the Conference has now something practical before it. We discuss this whole subject in a leading article.

EMPIRE SETTLEMENT

One of the chief results of the Imperial Conference of 1921 was a plan for State-aided land settlement throughout the Empire, and out of this came the Empire Settlement Act of last year. Great expectations were based on the Act, but the practical results are unfortunately very disappointing. It was hoped that between sixty thousand and eighty thousand would migrate annually, but only 31,832 people have taken advantage of the Act since it was passed sixteen months ago. Want of money has not been the cause, for of the credit of £1,500,000 at the disposal of our Government only £382,000 has been utilized in assisting the movement. What has been, what is, the reason for the comparative failure of the plan? In speaking of the matter Colonel Buckley said that the difficulties that were in the way of success were economic, political, and psychological. But we wonder if the thing is not very much simpler. Is it not just sheer incompetence to handle the business in a business-like manner?—too much red tape, too many officials, too much time wasted, so that the applicants become quite discouraged, and remain at home?

THE SITUATION IN GERMANY

Though Dr. Stresemann, after discarding the idea of a Directory, has been able to re-constitute a Government on the basis of the coalition which formerly supported him, the continued existence of that Government is very uncertain, so strong is the opposition in the Reichstag to his Bill for conferring extraordinary powers on him and his Cabinet. Moreover, Bavaria has intimated that she will not agree to the Bill. In general, the political situation in Germany remains extremely precarious, and it has not been improved by the action of M. Poincaré in declining to treat with Dr. Stresemann directly for the resumption of work in the Ruhr. The French Premier prefers to deal with the magnates on the spot, whom he now holds in the hollow of his hands. The chaos in which the economic situation in Germany is plunged is seen in the further prodigious fall of the mark to twenty to twenty-five milliards to the pound. The Soviet rouble, which was supposed to have reached the lowest depths to which any currency could sink, is now worth three or four times the value of the mark; it seems incredible, but it is true.

MR. KIPLING AT ST. ANDREWS

Mr. Kipling's rectorial address at St. Andrews could not fail to be of arresting interest, or to bear the impress of the distinguished mind that produced it. In his choice of "Independence" as its subject, however, the famous author was austere rather than inspiring. We are inclined to doubt whether at this moment the idea of independence, even in the lofty sense intended by Mr. Kipling, is just the most necessary thing to preach to an audience of young educated men and women. The tendency of the day seems to us to be towards too much independence. Our civilization is rather like a ship that has been through a bad gale, and is knocked about and leaking. At such a moment it is not a spirit of independence that is wanted in the crew so much as a spirit of interdependence. When the Christian religion was a more living thing than it is to-day it acted as a great social cement, simply because it taught people that they were members of the same body, and that there was really no such thing as complete isolation or independence. Young men and women need still to be taught this same lesson. Mr. Kipling's gloomy if char-

acteristic account of man making the first use of human utterance in playing a practical joke probably ante-dates the dawn of a sense of humour.

POPLAR'S CHALLENGE TO PARLIAMENT

We are glad to see that Sir William Joynson-Hicks realizes what is involved in the deliberate and continued attempt of the Poplar Board of Guardians to grant poor relief on principles utterly contradictory to those laid by legislation and administrative authority. It is serious enough that the proportion of persons receiving relief in Poplar to total population should be so high, nearly one in five, whereas the figure for the East End as a whole is only just over one in ten. But the real point is not that, nor that the Poplar poor rate is over 10s. in the £ while the rate in the East End as a whole is only 6s. 3d. The point is that the Guardians are aiming at complete defiance of Parliamentary control. To such an attempt there can rightly be only one reply, and though Sir William Joynson-Hicks has not yet decided on action, it is well to have his assurance that once he acts there will be no compromise. Poplar is a test case, and weakness in dealing with it would be followed by orgies of Socialist benevolence elsewhere.

NO, WE HAVE A POLICY "

Mr. McCurdy was rather entertaining at Northampton, but he is mistaken about the Government. Even what he called a banana Government would be better than one, doubtless within his recollection, which abounded in promises of rare and refreshing fruit, but relied almost wholly for its supplies on orchard-robbing and wind-falls. The Government is not without a policy, but it practises on occasion a certain reticence and always a patience which the nation must learn in these days. It has averted some dangers, postponed some difficulties which it might have been ruinous to deal with hastily, kept its head and kept on good terms with those who must share with it in the settlement of Europe. We should like to quote Mr. McCurdy a passage, rich in sound sense, though overlaid with fancifulness, in which Donne, preaching of civil as well as religious troubles, praised the virtue of those who, forced to take in sail, yet manage to ride out the storm.

SURE TO GO

A bitter cry comes from Oldham, whose City Fathers have refused to accept for their art gallery Mr. Randolph Schwabe's 'Girl and Lamb' (a picture in which we gather the girl is undraped and the lamb but scantily fleeced on the ground that it is "too voluptuous." We are reminded of a recitation which we once heard not far from Oldham, in the course of which a fond father, with his little girl on his knee, put each line of the poem in the form of a question, the last word alone being supplied in a breathy whisper by the infant prodigy. The result took the following form:—

Mary 'ad a little—wot, loov?
(La-amb, Father!)
'Oose fleece was white as—wot, loov?
(Snaw, Father!)
An' everywhere wot Mary—wot, loov?
(Went, Father!)
The lamb was sure to—wot, loov?
(GAW, Father!)

Too voluptuous for Oldham? Is it indeed possible to be voluptuous in Oldham? For our part we should have thought that a little voluptuousness, a little siren music to soften the clatter of the clogs, a little guilty splendour, would be welcome in that Sahara of the senses; and that some good missionary work might be done by a society which should collect an exhibition of voluptuous art and send it round to some of the more intense of our industrial centres. Mr. Schwabe might try Wigan next.

THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY

Together with the announcement that Mr. Harvey is resigning the post of American Ambassador in London comes the information, which we believe to be accurate, that Sir Auckland Geddes does not propose to return to Washington. The filling of these posts at the present time will be more than ever a matter of the greatest importance to both countries. We hope that the British representative will be chosen from among those who have training in diplomacy and foreign affairs, whether a member of the Diplomatic Service or not, although we do not think it a very great compliment to that Service to take for granted that a suitable head for the British Embassy in Washington cannot be found within its ranks. But if it is considered desirable, in these days of publicity, to send out someone of high personal eminence and prestige, we hope that we shall at least be represented by a great English gentleman. Fashionable as it is to despise this class at home, there are still countries in the world where its prestige remains, and where the high standards and traditions embodied in it can be of the greatest service to the Empire. Lord Grey, if his health permitted him to accept such a post, would probably be an ideal Ambassador to the United States.

A PESSIMIST

Lord Grey's letter, which appeared in Tuesday's *Times*, was surely coloured much too darkly. To say, as he does, that Europe is sliding towards the abyss seems to us an over-statement; bad as things are, they are not so bad as all that. Lord Grey founds his conviction that Europe is going to the dogs on Signor Mussolini's denial of the competence of the League of Nations to deal with the Corfu incident. But Lord Grey, in our view, attaches too much importance to the League. He has apparently forgotten that, to say nothing of Vilna, the great failure of the League came a good deal earlier—its failure to deal with the Franco-German controversy. For our part we have never been able to have any large measure of faith in the League, nor do we believe that even its demise would inevitably throw all Europe into the bottomless pit.

SMOKING IN TUBE LIFTS

The deterioration in public manners which has taken place since those who are servants individually have collectively become masters is one for which employers cannot be held responsible. But the Underground Railways of London, which spend so much money in advertising and urging us to throng into their already overcrowded cars, might at least see that a strict discipline is kept among their servants. It is not good that uniformed attendants should treat the travelling public in the manner of drovers herding cattle; but that is one of the many things with which a patient public puts up. It is bad enough to be herded and coralled into narrow spaces such as tube lifts, without (especially if you are a woman) having the additional nuisance of plug tobacco puffed in your face, and cigarette ash dropped on your clothes. The regulations about smoking in lifts are plain; but the lift attendants are apparently too lazy to enforce them. This is one of the minor nuisances that mean a good deal to people who have to travel daily in public conveyances; and we should like some notice to be taken of it.

THE WIZARD ON TOUR

Mr. Lloyd George is getting a tremendous reception on the other side of the Atlantic, and this may surprise some among us who have seen how here his star, once of the first magnitude and that hardly more than a year ago, has waned and almost faded utterly away. But we know our Mr. Lloyd George very well, and the Americans and Canadians don't know him at all except by report. To them he is the very latest and biggest "attraction," and they go all out to see and,

perchance, hear him. For the moment he is more interesting than any cinema or cinema actor; in fact he is the cinema of America. The other cinema people understand this, and play up. Hence the fact that Charlie Chaplin, till then the most popular man on the other side, visited him in his box in a New York theatre. What a splendid bit of advertising for both! Whose was the brain that conceived it? Remembering how effectively Mr. Lloyd George used to stage-manage his numerous Conferences, we incline to think the odds are in his favour.

THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

Some time last year—we have too little love for committees to remember their birthdays—ten members of the two Houses of Parliament were charged with an inquiry into the confused national status of married women. No report has yet been issued by them, and indeed, since they are understood to be equally divided on the question whether a British woman should lose her nationality by marriage, none seems likely. Meanwhile the matter has been discussed by the International Law Association, without any result that we can discover, except the revelation of further complexities and absurdities. A vigorous commonsense ruling on the subject is overdue. As things are, the most proposterous cases may arise. An American woman marrying an Englishman retains one nationality and acquires another; an Englishwoman marrying an American loses her original nationality and acquires no other; but a Belgian or Italian woman loses her nationality by marriage only where the law of her husband's country gives her his.

OSCAR BROWNING

Oscar Browning, who died last week in Rome, was at once the oldest and the youngest of the distinguished people whom Rome has seduced from us ever since the graves of our two young poets made Englishmen feel that they can never be aliens again there. He was heavy with years, and he disregarded them; heavy with honours, and was perhaps a little too conscious of them. But nothing can banish from the memory of those who met him even for a few moments that here was a man no less neo-Georgian than mid-Victorian. No sort of intellectual experimentalism was dull to him, and even out of the dry bones of Theosophy he feasted as from a Platonic banquet. Wherever he moved, his youthfulness and curiosity blew like a wind. The courts of Eton and King's are not even now certain that they have recovered all the solemnity that reigned there before he was added to their destiny. If he leaves no literary labour behind him of great value, he has permanently enriched the folklore of Eton and the epic of Cambridge.

OLD GROUSE

The oldest of gift grouse must not be looked in the mouth, but to make them fit for the recipient's table there is only one way: they must be used for a soup of the cullis class. Let the disheartened beneficiary take two grouse, carefully rejecting the legs, which give a bitter taste to any preparation in which they are used. The birds being fried for a short time, let him swill the frying vessel with a little burnt brandy and put the gravy aside for addition to the soup. Let him then complete the cooking of the birds in game *consommé*, of which about one pint will be needed, and to which about a quarter of a pound of fried bread-dice should have been added. Let the birds' carcasses be then pounded with the bread-dice and one or two juniper berries to taste, the result passed through a tammy, and the original swilling having been added as well as a little more *consommé*, let the whole be brought to the boil and finished with about two ounces of butter and four tablespoonfuls of cream. It will then be possible to forgive the donor.

FREER TRADE WITHIN THE EMPIRE

LIKE from an Imperial economic or from a domestic political point of view, it would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the proposals which were laid, on behalf of the Government, last Tuesday, before the Economic Conference for extending our present system of fiscal Preference to British Colonial imports. The proposed extensions themselves, affecting the scale of the duties we levy on dried and preserved fruits, currants, sugar, and tobacco, imported into this country from abroad, may appear, indeed, modest enough by comparison with the much wider programme of Empire development outlined by Mr. Stanley Bruce, the Premier of the Australian Commonwealth, in the very interesting address he made to the Conference on the same day. But their significance, as an illustration of the practical way in which our Board of Trade has been ready at once to come forward with its own suggestions for increasing the advantage given to British overseas producers in our home markets, is quite independent of their magnitude. Their cordial reception, both by the Colonial Premiers and in commercial circles in the City, has, moreover, been no less significant. The most satisfactory thing about it has been—and we hope that further discussion may continue on this footing—that there is a general public understanding that we are not giving any legitimate cause here for prejudicing the issue by worrying ourselves over doctrinaire theories on the subject of "Free Trade" or "Protection." For what Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, who is earning golden opinions as President of the Board of Trade, has now put before the Conference as our own first contribution to the extension of Colonial Preference, means a substantial reduction of our tariff on British overseas products. It is difficult, therefore, to see what valid objection can be raised in any quarter to such adjustments of our tariffs as will give freer trade for Colonial products in our market at home.

At present we have duties at the rate of 10s. 6d. per cwt. on imported dried fruits, such as figs, raisins, plums, and apricots, and a preference rebate of 1s. 9d. per cwt. is given to British overseas products. The Government now propose to take off the duty altogether in their case. Similarly, with the 2s. per cwt. duty on currants; for the existing Colonial Preference of one-sixth an absolutely free admission is to be substituted. Other dried fruits, such as apples, pears, peaches, etc., on which an import duty of 10s. 6d. per cwt. is to be imposed, are to come in perfectly free from countries within the Empire. Preserved fruits containing sugar, already taxed in respect of the amount of the sugar, are now to be subjected to an all-round duty of 5s. per cwt., but are to be admitted free of duty from the Empire. As regards the sugar duty itself, on which there is now a reduction to Colonial sugar of one-sixth, or about a halfpenny a pound at the present rate, the Government find themselves unable to increase this preference, but they are prepared to "stabilize" it for ten years. They offer a guarantee that, if the high level at which the duty on refined sugar now stands, namely 25s. 8d. per cwt. (with 4s. 3½d. off on Colonial sugar), is reduced, the preference shall not be correspondingly lowered with it, but maintained at its present figure. Finally, as regards Empire tobacco, now getting a preference of one-sixth, the Government offer either similarly to stabilize this rate for ten years or, alternatively, to make the preference one-fourth of the duty, which, at the existing rate of 8s. 2d. for unmanufactured tobacco, would raise the preference from 1s. 4d. to rather over 2s. a pound.

We welcome most heartily these first proposals for extending our system of Imperial Preference, as not only taking what is obviously the line of least resistance in their political aspect, but as a real step forward in the "Conservation" movement, on the

fundamental importance of which, both to the Empire at large and to the Conservative Party at home, we wrote last week. From such easily acceptable stepping-stones we shall proceed, no doubt, to still greater things in intra-Imperial development. But even in the case of the proposal for helping the Colonial producer of dried fruits in our markets, it may be seen from one passage in Mr. Bruce's speech how far-reaching its effect may be. He pointed out that the Australian Government's great "Murray River Scheme," which is regarded by them as a test scheme for the settling in Australia of large numbers of immigrants from the Mother Country, is largely based on the prospect of a great production of dried fruits. In 1914 the Murray River area produced about 12,000 tons, of which Australia consumed 80 per cent. while 20 per cent. remained for export. By 1926 the proposed development of this area will mean that production should have risen to the extent of there being only 20 per cent. which can be consumed in Australia, so that 80 per cent. will be available for export. "If," said Mr. Bruce, "we can get an outlet for that production in the Murray Valley, we are prepared to complete the scheme, and settle a very great number of people, but unless we can get a market we shall have to slow down. If Britain could see her way to make her present preference on dried fruits effective, I think it would solve the problem of this particular scheme we are engaged upon."

Mr. Bruce knows now that an absolutely free market is open to him, and that the Preference will be as effective as we can make it. Our Government had tabled its proposal even before he made his speech.

A Pilgrim's Progress

London, October 11

A BREATH of reality, welcome indeed to the plain people who are wearied to death as well as bewildered by the muddle and stagnation of the Reparations controversy, has come into public affairs during the past week with the opening of the Imperial Conference. People are turning, with the kind of anxiety that is bred of despair, to this meeting of the governing heads of the British Colonies and Dominions, to see if there is really any merit at all in conferences. In other words, to see whether the men who are governing us are really accomplishing their tasks or are only pretending to. I think that already the evidences of reality and vitality in these meetings have been very marked; and although we do not know all that goes on at them, a very good mean has been hit between the damping effect of complete secrecy and the undoubted threat to the utility of the whole Conference that would be involved in complete publicity. After all, this Conference is not a public entertainment; it is something out of which we all hope for a result; the result is all important, while the methods by which it is arrived at are of very little importance, however interesting they would be to watch. But people must remember that whatever the results of the Conference may be (and I believe they will be far-reaching) they cannot be expected to have any immediate effect on the ghastly state of affairs from which we are suffering in this country. We are suffering from the war, and consequent bad trade; but still more are we suffering from the steady advance of Labour along an apparently prosperous but actually suicidal road. One by one industries and enterprises are being strangled and discouraged by the fact that the labourer deems himself worthy of something much more than his hire; and, through the weakness of employers in conceding to threats and strikes in those fatal days of false prosperity three years ago, has the means to enforce his demands. This country is not likely to be prosperous again until either some person or some school of thought appears really to lead Labour and instruct it in the use of its

newly acquired power. That should be a Conservative mission, for Labour is conservative. But I do not see any very clear sign that Conservatives as a whole realize their responsibility in this matter.

I wonder to what extent Carlyle is read in England by the present generation. Personally I hardly ever meet a young man or woman under thirty years of age who has done more than glance at the 'French Revolution' and 'Sartor Resartus'; but my experience in this respect is evidently narrow, because when I go to booksellers' shops or inquire from publishers I am told that there is a steady sale for Carlyle's works. That means that people buy them. What I wonder is, do they read them? Or has Carlyle attained to that degree of fame which makes people think it unnecessary to read his books, and yet ashamed not to have them on their shelves? A very good answer to this question should be afforded in the degree of success attained by Mr. David Alec Wilson's new biography of Carlyle, the first volume of which I have just read. It is entitled 'Carlyle till Marriage,' and is published by Kegan Paul at the price of 15s. To say that it ends on the afternoon of Carlyle's wedding day is to say that it has at least one attribute of the successful serial thriller; and it is to be followed by other volumes. Mr. Wilson is a scholar of his subject, and reveals something like veneration for the character he is dealing with. But in his general method he is rather too much of a partisan for my taste. Carlyle was so great and interesting a man that all that is necessary in writing his life is to present him actually as he was, without presuming to apologize or to defend, to praise or blame; and probably the simplest way of arriving at a true idea of his wife in relation to him is to accept his own estimate of her. But this is not good enough for Mr. Wilson, who takes upon himself to attack those who have criticized Carlyle, and especially those who have, through interest in Jane Welsh, been foolish enough to exalt her qualities at the expense of his. All this kind of thing is surely very small. For me this first volume, valuable as it is on account of the new letters and the new grouping of old letters, provided by Mr. Wilson, is marred by a quite definitely revealed determination on the part of the author to show that poor little Jeannie Welsh was a very much smaller, cheaper, and more commonplace young woman than she has been represented to be. Perhaps he is right; perhaps not; but what does it matter? I believe that when you are trying to arrive at an estimate of people who are dead and whom you have never known in life you are more likely to be right if you accept, even with a degree of smiling reserve, the estimates of those who loved them, who believed in them, and credited them always with the best, rather than the adverse opinions of those who, for whatever reason, disliked or were not in sympathy with them. I hope that in his future volumes Mr. Wilson will give Mrs. Carlyle a little less prominent place in his picture, and retire from his polemics into the serener atmosphere which alone can be suitable for the presentation of so great a subject. If he will do that they should be valuable indeed.

Another unhappy subject of controversy among biographers is Robert Burns, and the autumn season has produced a new monograph on him by Andrew Dakers (Chapman & Hall). Again one might ask, to what extent does the present generation outside Scotland read Burns? Again the answer is difficult; but it is quite certain that for every ten people who read his poetry not one has read or studied his life, which was at least as grand, as noble and as pathetic as his poetry. Mr. Dakers has contributed a really good book, slight though it is, to the literature of Burns. Its brevity ought to give it some chance of being read; and anyone who reads it will have, on the whole,

a true knowledge of the main outlines of Burns's stormy passage through life, and, what is more important, he will have it presented to him with some sense of proportion. It is one of the few unfortunate episodes in Stevenson's literary career that he chose Burns as the subject of a piece of literary craftsmanship which was really studio work; and was an exercise in presenting a certain point of view rather than a fair and considered contribution to the study of a great man's character. Stevenson's popularity has magnified the error; and I wish that Mr. Dakers's book could be read by everyone who has read Stevenson's. If so the reader would understand both Burns and Stevenson better.

FILSON YOUNG

BRITISH PRIMITIVES

BY TANCRED BORENIUS

MY thoughts have often gone to an episode related by Thomas Patch, the English eighteenth-century engraver who deserves to be remembered as one of the pioneers in the appreciation of the Italian Primitives. It appears that one day in 1771 a fire broke out in the church of S. Maria del Carmine at Florence, and destroyed a number of frescoes of the school of Giotto: but the flames were brought to a standstill and vanquished before they had had time to reach the frescoes by Masaccio in the Brancacci chapel. Now supposing that things had turned out differently, and that the Brancacci frescoes had perished in the conflagration, what idea would we have been able to gather of the character of Masaccio's work, and its significance in the development of modern art? No doubt, there would have existed some scattered remains of his work elsewhere, and we would have felt its echo in the subsequent marvellous performance of the Florentine school, added to which we would have had the written evidence of Vasari and many others: and yet, even so, how shadowy a figure would not Masaccio have been to us, how essentially would not our ideas about him have been in the nature of guesswork and approximations.

It is useful to bear these considerations in mind when thinking of the English school of painting of the pre-Reformation period: for it would be no exaggeration to call that school one of the great submerged continents in the history of art. Of the existence and the extent of that continent there can be no possibility of doubt. And just as in the case of Greek statuary we are reluctant to reconcile ourselves to the fact that in their original condition these statues did not show the pure and noble whiteness of the marble, but were painted in variegated colours, so it requires some effort nowadays to realize that the monochrome effect of the interiors of such churches in England as go back to the Middle Ages, noble and dignified though it be, was not the effect originally aimed at. This was one of considerable polychromy: and the factors which brought about that result were both wall paintings and painted panels forming part of altarpieces as well as of other articles of church furniture.

The loan exhibition of British Primitives which opened last Wednesday at Burlington House constitutes a landmark in the exploration of this province of European art. From churches and public and private collections, there have been brought together a series of precious original relics of English mediaeval painting: wherever necessary the demonstration is supplemented by a number of admirable reproductions, either photographs or water-colours, the latter not infrequently on a full-size scale. Several illuminated manuscripts of great beauty are also included in the exhibition, and rightly so, because the connexion between manuscript illuminations and paintings on a monumental scale was a close one during the Middle Ages; but the excellence of English Mediaeval Illumination has long been a commonplace, and the function of the examples shown is mainly, I take it, to give greater fullness to the im-

pression of pictorial art here received, not to illustrate exhaustively the development of MS. illumination. A number of sculptures and embroideries are also there, to round off the representation of English ecclesiastical art. The Catalogue, from the pen of Mr. W. G. Constable, is valuable, not only on account of the full and scholarly notes on the individual exhibits, but also because of the excellent Introduction, which for the first time authoritatively traces the development of painting in England during the period covered by the exhibition.

Chronologically, the series starts with the full-size reproduction of the remarkable twelfth-century wall painting in Canterbury Cathedral 'St. Paul at Melita' (No. 1), a design of extraordinarily monumental quality, in the purest Byzantine style and of great interest as a rendering of a most unhackneyed subject. To the middle of the next century belongs the 'Virgin and Child' (No. 2), in the Bishop's Chapel at Chichester, also shown in a big water-colour reproduction which does the greatest credit to its author, Mr. E. W. Tristram. The original must undoubtedly be accounted the purest gem of English mediaeval painting now in existence, so exquisite is it in the tender, lyrical feeling which governs the whole conception and is communicated no less by the character of line and movement than by the expression of the heads and the delicacy of the scheme of colour. An original work of about the same date is the 'Retable with Christ in Glory' (No. 3) from Westminster Abbey, now grievously injured, but still containing some fragmentary passages of great beauty. The English origin of this work is disputed, a claim having been put forward that it is a product of the atelier of the Royal Palace in Paris. In this connexion it is better worth emphasizing how cognate the elements were which, during the Middle Ages, constituted the civilization of the countries round the English Channel, and more especially as regards painting, rather than laying stress on the differences between these countries. One would perhaps be nearer the mark in speaking of a 'Style of the English Channel.' A series of thirteenth and fourteenth century altar-fronts in Norwegian Churches afford striking evidence of inspiration derived from English sources: and with the work of this type we may associate the very remarkable altar-front lent by M. Dikran Kelakian, 'The Holy Trinity with Scenes from the Passion' (No. 20). Here, an amazing intensity and dramatic poignancy of expression is seen in the figures, while the colours, gone very dark all through, in contrast with the buff of the once gilt or silvered backgrounds, go to make up an object of rare material beauty, not unlike a Chinese lacquered screen in effect. This is a work of the fourteenth century, to which also belongs the d'Estoutville triptych lent by Messrs. Durlacher (No. 29), a gaily coloured work with very lively little compositions, which afford interesting parallels to the subjects painted at the same time on the walls of St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. The imposing full-length portrait of Richard II enthroned from Westminster Abbey (No. 30) occupies a place of honour: its magnificent decorative qualities are here perhaps brought home to us as never before, and Mr. Constable is doubtless fully justified in claiming it as "one of the finest paintings of its age." Norwich Cathedral contributes its famous 'Retable with scenes from the Passion of Christ' (No. 32) of about 1400, a work of incomparable loveliness of colour: a kindred note is struck, even though the realism of the figures is greater, in Lord Lee of Fareham's noble 'Crucifixion' (No. 35) and the two most interesting little panels of 'Christ bearing the Cross' (No. 36) and 'Christ Mocked' (No. 37) from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, found on taking down a cottage in Huby's Yard, St. Saviour's, Norwich. The paintings on the rood-screens of the Norfolk Churches are plentifully illustrated, in originals and reproductions, a series of panels from St. Michael-at-Plea, Norfolk (Nos. 57-63) being particularly fine. Again, an enormous representation of the 'Last Judgment' (No. 41), from the church at Wenham, though rather a rude production, is

nevertheless a not unfavourable example of a subject which was frequently seen in English Churches above the Chancel arch. It is a work of the end of the fifteenth century; to the beginning of the next century belong a series of for the most part rather mechanically executed portraits of kings, hung in the second room, where the visitor should also notice the two remarkable Rolls lent by the College of Arms: the earlier of the two, known as the Rous or Warwick Roll, is artistically by far the finer one, and the self-portrait of the author of the Roll, John Rous, at work, is a composition of rare charm.

No doubt, what this exhibition contains might be compared to isolated mountain peaks, rising above the ocean, and hinting at a vanished Atlantis. But so full of significance are the suggestions received from this exhibition, and so fine is the quality of many of the individual specimens, that one cannot leave Burlington House without wishing that it were possible to make these two rooms with their contents a permanent addition to the National Gallery.

M. POINCARÉ'S PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

By ERNEST DIMNET

FEW men's actions are so well explained through their environment and idiosyncrasies as the actions of M. Poincaré. To begin with, he is a perfect Lorrainer. Most people are apt to imagine that a Lorrainer must be pre-eminently a hater of Germany. In reality it is not so. Alsations have always looked down upon Lorrainers for not knowing how to hate Germany, and it was not one of their least grievances against Bismarck that he bracketed them with their neighbours in naming the Reichsland. The Lorrainer is too cold a person to hate anybody: he is satisfied with everlastingly sizing up the people with whom he comes in contact. The most Scotch Scot is less wary, less on his guard against forgetting any element of appreciation, less incapable of ever forgetting himself and letting himself go than the Lorrainer. To think of the Germans as Germans would seem to the Lorrainer folly: he thinks of them as Schmitt or Schwartz, people he has met at notaries' offices on either side of the frontier, in very unacademic debates over bequests, transfers of property or rights of way, at fairs or pilgrimages, and he fashions his judgment of them according to definite experiences. I have seen French *chasseurs alpins*—the very corps in which M. Poincaré served his year—enter a Vosges inn where a few German Berg-jäger were discussing the local wine, salute politely, sit down and go on with their conversation without paying any attention to their *confrères*. But when the latter left, pertinent remarks showed that not a single detail of their equipment had been left unnoticed. Alsatian or French soldiers would get enthusiastic over their own superiority or irritated at the shortcomings of their commissariat. Not so your Lorrainer, with whom a fact is only a fact and a man is a person and not a symbol. You may be certain that M. Poincaré thinks of Herr Stresemann, as he did of Herr Cuno, as a man supposed to be so and so, with such or such a background and personal tendencies, and not as a mere German. And the Treaty with him is a deed, and the Reparations problem is only an ordinary business multiplied by a high figure and complicated by a few annoying data. The Lorrainer views everything from the practical point of view; you may tell him that he was hideously miserly when he used to sell water to the American soldiers, he will answer coldly that you probably don't know that water in the Woëvre district is an expensive commodity which has to be carted kilometres away, has to be used sparingly and costs so much a day. You may tell him that he has no ideal, he will answer you that he is the most intelligent type of Frenchman, as the statistics of school inspectors and the tables of Government higher schools testify, and, besides, he does his bit in an emer-

gency in quite as good a style as any enthusiastic Southerner; it is not his fault if nature placed his province so near Germany that he has to think of it not as Germany but as a collection of possibilities.

I never see M. Poincaré rise to speak, rake the audience with his clear steady eyes, and begin in that *voix blanche* which somehow soon ceases to be colourless and becomes almost winsome, without realizing that there stands the son of Lorraine peasants, a man whom no amount of eloquence can compel to see white when he sees black and no amount of persuasion can deflect from what he regards as the path of everyday morality. How cross he must be with himself for his occasional flashes of temper in the Senate or chamber! I never hear of his passion for work; of the dread which his cross-examinations, after a few hours over a *dossier*, cause in his entourage; of his indifference to popularity visible in his not very cordial politeness; without remembering that he was born and grew up at Sampigny, where honesty, industry and self-respect take precedence of mere amenities. The difference between the product of such a soil and a man like Briand born in the lukewarmness of the Breton coast, in the laziness of a sea-port, nay, in the rollicking atmosphere of a sailors' inn, and counting for his future progress above all on his talent and charm, cannot be over-emphasized.

It was meet that M. Poincaré should be a lawyer. Lorrainers are once more confused with Alsations when they are supposed to be militarists with an inborn taste for soldiering. Your born soldier is an enthusiast who does not care for independence, the very reverse of the Lorrainer. General Gourand once told me that Poincaré when he visited the trenches was as indifferent to danger as Clemenceau, but could not show to the men, as Clemenceau did, that he rather enjoyed it, but acted, the moment he arrived, in a semi-professional manner. On the contrary, in the formal but alert atmosphere of the courts he is in his element, and acts in the Chamber as if every deputy ought to remember that a law-giver is next-of-kin to a lawyer. He never makes a speech that could not be mistaken for a brief. The style of his notes, now familiar to Englishmen, is as easily recognizable, and I have seen it delight a knot of American barristers. His capacity for gathering and classifying information, for weighing the *pros* and *cons*, and finally coming to a conclusion, is the lawyer's habit of building up and distributing a *dossier*. M. Poincaré's literary fault—a tendency to place all arguments in the same light—was already noticeable when he was serving in his first legal firm. It results in a diffused but rather uninteresting clarity which I remember complaining of in these columns, before the war, when M. Poincaré was elected to the French Academy.

M. Poincaré and M. Millerand are, or were, the two most successful men at the French bar: both men are worth about ten million francs. It is natural that with early independence M. Poincaré should have acquired a taste for action. It is noticeable in all his life and visible in his every attitude. Ambition made him aspire to the Presidency and reach his goal when he was barely fifty, but the French Presidency is the torture of Tantalus to a doer of things. On one or two occasions M. Poincaré, who never wishes to be touching or, above all, pathetic, became distinctly so when alluding to what he suffered during the Peace negotiations through having to watch a most energetic politician without being himself able to do more than advise.

Now is the time of his reward for strictly adhering to the constitution. He can expect the same attitude from the other strong man, M. Millerand, and fully takes advantage of his situation. Everybody must have noticed that Cabinet Councils, which can be held at the Foreign Office, are more frequent than Councils of Ministers, which have to take place at the Elysée.

For a Lorrainer who wanted to do as he pleased so long as he thought he was doing right, the last year or two were a unique chance: Cato himself could not have dreamed of a more favourable opportunity for disagreeing with the whole world in order to serve truth.

STAGE FRIGHTFULNESS

By HERBERT FARJEON

Titus Andronicus. By William Shakespeare. The Old Vic.

THE production of 'Titus Andronicus' at the Old Vic. this week may be regarded as an extravagance, committed not so much for the sheer Neronic delight of committing extravagances as for the steady satisfaction of piling up a new record. In no single theatre and under no single manager in the world have all the thirty-six plays attributed to Shakespeare by the editors of the First Folio yet succeeded in getting themselves produced: nearly everybody present at Monday night's performance must have been conscious of this soon-to-be-demolished fact: and it was probably this consciousness which enabled the audience to endure with such fortitude the spectacle of Miss Lilian Baylis doing, as it were, her thirty-fifth lap, like an untiring long-distance bicyclist whose last circuits arouse the spectators to their highest flights of enthusiasm. Certainly, it will be a remarkable record—a record so remarkable that, when it has been finally achieved, Miss Baylis and Mr. Robert Atkins may well find the prospect a little flat. They will want fresh fields—Shakespearian, of course—to conquer. And since (apart from the very doubtful plays) there are no fresh fields, I suggest to them that they might do worse than to reconquer the old field in a new way. It has lately been discovered, by many Old Victorians for the first time, that the three parts of 'Henry V' present, when played consecutively, a meaning which evaporates when one of them is wrenched, like a quotation, out of its context. And just as the same discovery applies to the whole of the Chronicle Plays, so, in a slightly different but scarcely less fascinating sense, it applies to all the plays that Shakespeare ever wrote. Now suppose that Miss Baylis and Mr. Atkins were to treat the complete series as a series of chronicle plays, regarding the thing chronicled as the development of a great artist and a human soul. Suppose they were to address themselves to the task of producing all the plays chronologically, in the order in which they are believed to have been written and in the order in which they would be arranged in any sane single-volume edition. Not only would the public be afforded an exciting opportunity of following the development of Shakespeare's mind as it developed during his lifetime, but students of the theatre would be afforded an extraordinarily valuable opportunity of following the development of his stagecraft. Those who agree with Mr. William Poel that the only reasonable way of producing Shakespeare's plays is the way in which Shakespeare himself meant them to be produced, are a good deal confused by the fact that during the twenty odd years of Shakespeare's career as a dramatic author the mechanism of the English theatre was changing at a tremendous rate. To declare arbitrarily that "Shakespeare" must have been produced in such-and-such a way, is to neglect all that happened between the first performance of 'Love's Labour's Lost' and the first performance of 'The Tempest': and the best way to find out just what did happen during that interval of time is by undertaking the practical experiment of production, step by step. The Old Vic. is not, of course, an ideal medium for such an experiment: it is one of our national disgraces that we do not possess a single theatre (not even the Maddermarket) which provides a platform on which Shakespeare can be acted in the real Shakespearian manner. But half a loaf is better than no bread, and a great deal might be learned if, the next time Miss Baylis "sees it through," she would begin at the beginning and would place 'Titus Andronicus' not thirty-fifth, but first or second.

Embarking on such a voyage of discovery, Mr. Atkins would have to abandon a good many of the effects employed in his present production. 'Titus Andronicus' is one of the most Grand Guignolesque of

all Elizabethan plays: a stark piece of stage frightfulness in which, to quote the expressive tautology of Smee, "horror piled on horror do horrify me most horribly." Its horribleness has got the old Blue Books on War Atrocities beaten hollow. On Shakespeare's stage its

murders, rapes, and massacres,
Acts of black night, abominable deeds,
Complots of mischief, treason, villainies
Ruthful to hear, yet piteously performed,

were presented in the plain, unwavering light of day (as Sir Henry Irving, in a moment of inspiration, suddenly decided to present the last scene of 'The Lyons Mail'). But as though it is not enough that a ravished girl should be exhibited for the delectation of a sensation-swallowing audience with hands cut off and tongue cut out by her dual ravishers—as though it is not enough that a poisonous queen should have her two massacred sons served up to her for consumption in a pie—Mr. Atkins, endeavouring to emphasize the violence, degenerates into italics and bathes his stage in crimson and purple mists. This is on all fours with the rumblings of thunder introduced into the last scene of 'Othello' by Sir Herbert Tree in an attempt to make the climax really impressive. The effect, of course, is rather to emasculate than to strengthen. The "goodness" goes into the shoots: the fruit fails to swell: and Tamora, who, deprived of the protection of the "limes," would be driven to gobble up her sons with unction, pecks at them daintily, leaving the coloured electric lights to do the rest. True, I don't like being disgusted in the theatre; but this is a disgusting play, and if it does not disgust, it does not achieve its end. Again, when Lavinia takes her father's chopped-off hand between her teeth, I feel that I am being cheated of my money's worth if, in the performance of this nauseating business, she delicately turns her back upon me. It is a very good hand (by which I mean it is a very revolting hand), but the real object Titus had in view when he commanded Aaron to slash away is, at the Old Vic., discreetly and ungratefully thwarted. Mr. Atkins may provide, in substitution, a ruddy tree marked (apparently) with broad arrows, as though to suggest that even Nature in such a play cannot escape the taint of crime. But the utmost achieved by this tree is to offend my æsthetic sense. It does not make me sick in my stall—a liberty to which, as a sensitive product of the twentieth century, I feel myself entitled. 'Titus Andronicus' is, in many respects, an admirably managed piece of work, but emphatically I don't like it: and when I see it on the stage I claim the right to be allowed to dislike it to the top of my bent.

Nevertheless, Mr. Atkins deserves much praise. He launches into the horrors and lunges through them far more courageously than nine modern producers out of ten would launch and lunge; and most of the members of his company thwack the empty casks which do duty for characters with good, resounding vigour (Tamora, Demetrius and Chiron, who disguise themselves as Revenge, Murder and Rape, are in reality only Revenge, Murder and Rape disguised as Tamora, Demetrius and Chiron). Mr. Ion Swinley—whose lapses of memory threw the prompter on the first night into such a state of nerves that in the end this gentleman fell to prompting the actors after they had spoken their lines—fills out, if he does not fill in, the saturnine Saturninus. The same may be said of the Titus of Mr. Wilfrid Walter and the Tamora of Miss Florence Saunders. Mr. George Hayes gloats picturesquely over the inky Aaron, a very vivid devil; Miss Jane Bacon makes of Lavinia a very slaughterable lamb. Best of all (this now goes without saying at the Old Vic.) is Mr. Hay Petrie, who plays the tiny part of the clown with such astonishing beauty, humour, truth to life, truth to the theatre, pathos, imagination, intelligence, instinct, depth, sharpness and penetration, that every word he speaks and every movement he makes is a living, thrilling thing. Heaven will be incomplete without him when he dies.

Reviews

THE WIZARD'S BOOK OF WORDS

✓ *Is it Peace?* By David Lloyd George. Hodder and Stoughton. 10s. 6d. net.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE, in a public utterance soon after the fall of his Coalition, boasted that one of the pleasures of opposition would be the freedom of criticism in which he would be able to indulge, and the (to us, somewhat peculiar) delight of contemplating the difficulties of his successors. Since then he has freely exercised his new powers of unfettered criticism: to such lengths, indeed, that a daily newspaper deemed it advisable on a certain occasion to refrain from publishing an article from his pen for which it was under contract to pay; and it is a collection of such articles and speeches, together with some new matter, which form the volume under review. That blessed joy of revelling in the difficulties of those who have shouldered his burdens is also not unevident in these pages; we feel that it is with a suppressed whoop that he sets out the present European situation: "Of the years immediately after the end of the Great War," he writes, "it may be said that up to the present year each showed a distinct improvement over its predecessor." (See what I did!) Since then, however, "peace has gone back perceptibly and unmistakably." (See what you've done!) Yet, for reasons, as we think, quite other than the removal of his guiding hand, the European situation has in the last year definitely grown more menacing. The occupation of the Ruhr, the Italian trial of strength in temporarily seizing Corfu, the shameful Lausanne Treaty, are painful reminders of the triumph of brute force; and the successes, each in turn, of France, Italy and Turkey, constitute three distinct retrograde steps in the cause of moral progress in international affairs. We agree with Mr. Lloyd George when he writes:

Force is still the supreme arbiter of right and wrong in international affairs in Europe. It is worth noting how a new code of international law is coming into existence since the war. The French armies invade a neighbour's territory, occupy it, establish martial law, seize and run the railways, regulate its Press, deport tens of thousands of its inhabitants, imprison or shoot down all who resist, and then proclaim that this is not an act of war. It is only a peaceful occupation to enforce rights under a peace treaty. Signor Mussolini shells a town belonging to a country with whom he is at peace, and forcibly occupies part of its territory, and then solemnly declares that this is not an act of war, but just a reasonable measure of diplomatic precaution.

Probably the most important thing in this not very important book is the summary which Mr. Lloyd George gives of the Reparations proposals put forward by Great Britain at the Allied Conference in August, 1922. These proposals were accepted in general principle by all the allied Governments with the exception of France, a fact which lends further colour to the arguments of those who maintain that France wished and still wishes to ruin Germany rather than come to an agreement.

But as to the Lausanne Treaty, though Mr. Lloyd George is loud in its denunciation, he conveniently neglects to remember that it was the policy of his Government in backing Greece beyond her capacity which made this disastrous Treaty inevitable. There may have been diplomatic reasons of the highest importance for keeping Turkey, so far as possible, out of Europe; but the manner chosen to encompass this end, namely, to encourage Greece to advance towards certain defeat and bring the Turk sweeping back on the top of her armies, was surely a unique one. For subsequent British troubles and humiliations in the Near East we must hold Mr. Lloyd George and his Cabinet, and M. Poincaré, responsible. The ex-Premier's hatred of the Turk—the traditional Liberal attitude—is in no wise diminished and he is obviously quite unrepentant of his policy. All that he says of the indolence, the cruelty and wantonness, of the Turk

may be true, but it seems to have blinded his eyes to the other side of the picture. When he speaks of the "industriousness" of the Armenians and Greeks, it is really time to demur. It is curious to note how Liberalism of all complexions to-day harps continually on Gladstone and the past. Being bankrupt of great men and great policies it must for ever be fumbling among old dispatch cases and forgotten debates, and producing faded and tattered programmes from the lumber room of politics.

✓ No one who has followed Mr. Lloyd George's career or listened to his orations would expect to find anything profound or scholarly in these pages. There is much that is forceful, and the chapter of 'Irish Memories,' is both interesting and also quite well written. But, as a whole, he is altogether too specious; and speciousness, though it may "go down" on the platform, is readily detected in pages of unemotional print. In the matter of "Cabinet Secrets," for instance, Mr. Lloyd George argues that because unofficial or garbled accounts of Cabinet secrets have been used in attacks upon Ministers, those Ministers are entitled to publish official documents by way of defence; in other words, that two wrongs make a right. It is precisely the kind of argument we might have expected English Parliamentary life, we are glad to think, has a worthier tradition, and a Liberal statesman to whose lips the appeal to Gladstone so glibly rises should be aware of it.

MR. DOUGLAS AT HOME

✓ *Together.* By Norman Douglas. Chapman and Hall. 12s. 6d. net.

THERE is hardly another writer of this generation who has the faculty of Mr. Norman Douglas for interpenetrating his style with the very essence of the landscape he is for the moment concerned with. He managed to convey to the pages of 'Old Calabria' the austerity of Aspromonte, "gashed with crude scars," the bewildering mountain whose naked bastions frown towards Sicily. The reader will find in 'Siren Land' all the tranced beauty of those islands of legend that lie under the lee of the Sorrentine peninsula, and all the odours of tree-heath and rosemary will rise for him out of those pages as they rise from the precipices above Posilippo. If his theme be Tuscany or Tunis, the disposition of his language and the nature of his thoughts are in a correspondence at once scientific and poetical with the disposition and nature of these lands.

✓ His latest volume, which has a quality not hitherto shown by Mr. Douglas despite all his versatility, is more enchanting than its predecessors, for it has an intimacy more economical in its means than Sterne's and much less intimidating than Doughty's, yet as memorable as either. We confess that we read through the pages of 'Together' with a growing sense of privilege. It is not to be lightly valued that a scholar so recondite, a wit so distinguished, should take the reader to his bosom, as it were, and walk with him among the meadows of his infancy and climb in his company the mountains of his boyhood.

For the scene of Mr. Douglas's new volume is Vorarlberg, that tiny Austrian province between the Tyrol, on the one hand, and the still tinier principality of Lichtenstein, on the other. Once more his prose, in some effortless but most potent manner, known only to Mr. Douglas, takes precise colour from its setting. It is green as the remembered grass, or flawless in its rhythms as the snowy contours of these mountains. Or it is lit by the dark flames of fallen beech-leaves in the coigns of forgotten castles where the author played as a child. He recreates for us the amiable or forbidding figures within the walls of his home, and beyond them, the stocky fair-haired children of those parts in whose companionship he laid the foundations of the prowess in languages and the acute knowledge



DRAMATIS PERSONÆ, No. 68

THE RT. HON. WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

By 'QUIZ'

of natural history these pages so abundantly and easily display.

There are certain unifying qualities which Mr. Douglas's prose always presents, whatever subtle transformation his background has wrought upon it. His wit has never been so lambent before, nor his scholarship so profound and felicitous. Whether his theme be the *blaufelchen*, the lake-trout of Bregenz (and we corroborate with enthusiasm the discreet raptures of Mr. Douglas) or the strange Alpine beast called the Tattermandl, or the beers and battles of Frastanz, he supports his own experience with the authority of forgotten scribes who, sometimes even to local scholars, are not even names. But these things we have received from him earlier. The especial value of 'Together' lies in its charming sketches of the author's earliest domestic circle: of Anna, the old nurse, for instance, of whose passion for idiots and corpses we learn agreeable details, and of how she shook chocolate down from a tree. There is nothing of the mumbo-jumboism of ancestor-worship about Mr. Douglas, so that he does not hesitate to describe his grandfather for us with salty candour; how he excavated in imagination the Acropolis of Athens and the fearsome system of governance he practised over his family. "A certain daughter had the impudence, one day, to admire a graceful birch-tree that she could see from her bedroom. Next morning, as usual, she looked out of the window; the birch was gone. It had been felled overnight. That was his system. Dominate your women, or they will dominate you."

It is the portrait of the author's father which stands out most memorably from the book. Never for one moment does he relax the astringent unsentimentality of his method, and for that reason the profound affection which existed between them remains the more poignantly in the reader's memory. It has been said of Mr. Hardy that a soldier's regimental button speaks more romantically to him than a lock of a dead poet's hair; and we cannot help feeling that Mr. Douglas is prouder that his father was an official of the local Alpine Club and was revered as a shot and mountaineer for leagues around, than if John Sholto Douglas had been calamitously elected President of the United States of America. The amorous adventures of a young French gentleman named "Mr. R." give a delightful continuity to these reminiscences and revisitings; and they receive the pleasant sort of epilogue we have grown to expect to Mr. Douglas's books, an index, to wit, that makes as whimsical reading as any page in the text. That, perhaps, is the measure of Mr. Douglas's achievement: to clothe even the dull bones of an index with the flesh and blood, the lights and shadows of fine literature.

JOHNSONIANA

✓ *Contemporary Criticisms of Dr. Samuel Johnson, his Works and Biographers.* Collected and edited by John K. Spittal. Murray. 16s. net.

THE title of this book promises a somewhat broader survey than its contents. It is confined to extracts from the *Monthly Review*, which shared with the *Critical Review* in Johnson's day the literary judgments of the kingdom. Johnson thought the first "done with most care," but "the *Monthly Reviewers* are duller men, and are glad to read the books through." The eighteenth century, unlike the twentieth, is seldom content with vapid nonsense, but we cannot help wishing that Mr. Spittal had cut out some of the *Monthly*, and given us work by hands of less employment with a daintier sense of Johnson as a man, and not such a terrible need to preserve their dignity and his. The general public will find here a good abstract of Johnson's life and numerous solid quotations from the books reviewed, while the specialist may see records of books and pamphlets now forgotten and not easily accessible. Johnson, yet living or still remembered as the dictator of letters, impressed these critics so much

that they took his side, or timidly opposed him. Poor Mrs. Thrale is thwacked with heavy classical quotations, and expected to be more "improving" than she is. Later criticism has taken her side in the quarrel with Johnson. He owed her much, and she had a perfect right to marry Piozzi, if she chose to do so. She did one excellent thing in her 'Anecdotes,' she showed up Johnson's contempt for the humours of sentimentalism, which, invented in the eighteenth century, has raged ever since to the destruction of proper values in life and letters. Hawkins, usually a dullard, was sensible on this point too, but his reviewer rebukes him for not applauding 'Goodness of Heart.' He and Mrs. Thrale have merits which are reluctantly admitted. Boswell is better treated than we expect, since he descended to record the Sage's behaviour in moments of levity, when he used vulgar English like "taken in," which the reviewer thinks impossible for so great a scholar! Carlyle in his abominable, patronizing way, and Macaulay with his cocksure and mistaken brilliancy have done injustice to Boswell which the contemporary critic is too sensible to think of. But we do sigh for a sense of humour in these monthly oracles, a little concession to the rights of humanity. Johnson's gift for talk and his excursive intellect (to use his own phrase) are more valued to-day than his moral sentiments. We see him more as a dominant talker than as ferocious by nature, and capable in moments of emotion of a simpler style than his ponderous balance of long words. He misjudged Milton and abused the Scots. Angry replies to both these prejudices are noticed here, but the age was far from the modern position which recognizes an appreciation of 'Lycidas' as essential to good taste. The *Monthly* man regarded Shakespeare's Poems and Sonnets as "on the whole languid and tiresome," and wanted to revive 'Irene' and raise a monument to Johnson in Westminster Abbey on the proceeds. 'Irene' itself is a monument of frigid rhetoric not unmingled with nonsense, as Gibbon showed.

Mr. Spittal might have added notes here and there. Birkbeck Hill has shown that Johnson could not have been the person described by Chesterfield as a "respectable Hottentot," and Boswell that Hawkins's account of the genesis of 'Rasselas' (page 60) was vague and idle. On the same page "furious in its kind" sounds odd, and perhaps is "curious." In Milton's Latin verse "fubeunda" is obviously wrong, and did the reviewer in the *Monthly* make an elementary slip (page 372) in 1788 in a title it had got right before? These, however, are such strictures as he himself has made, and not of great interest to the present age. Johnson was rudely described, we learn, by people sick of talk about him as a "comet with the longest tail," but to-day we are anxious to hear as much about him as possible, because in spite of his deficiencies, he was a practising moralist with the widest human sympathies, a good man, but also a great and vivid man. He was much less pedantic than his reviewers, and that sharp, retorting way of his is illustrated in a new saying. A lady contended that Dr. Watts did not die a believer in the Trinity, and "opened his eyes in his latter days." "Did he, Madam?" replied Johnson . . . "did he open his eyes? then the first thing he saw was the Devil!"

ARS BABLATIVA

✓ *The Seven Lamps of Advocacy.* By Judge Edward Abbott Parry. Fisher Unwin. 5s. net.

THE title of our review is taken from a happy phrase used by old Sergeant Maynard, who described the calling of the advocate as *ars bablativa*. But that more than talking, even with the tongues of men and of angels, goes to the composition of a successful barrister is clearly shown by Judge Parry, who in this entertaining and suggestive little book divides the qualities needed under the seven headings of honesty, courage, industry, wit, eloquence, judgment and fellowship.

Ever since Judge Parry performed a task of great and enduring merit by introducing the modern world to the manifold charms of the delightful Dorothy Osborne, we have known that we may always look with pleasure to the perusal of anything that he writes.

His new book is no exception. In it he traces the evolution of the qualities aforesaid by a happy selection of story and anecdote. They are always amusing, and many of them are new to us. Judge Parry always applies them happily and appositely—as when, for instance, he sums up the famous discussion between Johnson and Boswell as to the duties of the conscientious advocate in the story of the Irishman who, when asked to plead "Guilty or Not Guilty," replied with a winning smile, "And how can I tell till I hear the evidence?" We are grateful to be reminded of Roger North's immortal description of himself as "a plant of a slow growth, and when mature but slight wood, and of a flashy fruit." The verbosity which sometimes plagues a Judge was seldom better hit off than in the American story of Mr. Justice Wilde, who was asked one day if he had heard of the new edition of Worcester's dictionary, with a great number of additional words. Gripping his informant's arm, he said in a perturbed whisper, "No, I had not heard of it. But, for God's sake, don't tell Choate!" What could be happier than the neat reproof of Sergeant Davy to Lord Mansfield, when that rugged old iconoclast proposed to sit on Good Friday? "If your Lordship pleases; but your Lordship will be the first judge that has done so since Pontius Pilate." Judge Parry's little book is a storehouse of good things; but it is also a book which, for all its seeming frivolity, if laid to heart would be a most valuable item in the education of an intending barrister.

PLEASANT ANECDOTAGE

✓ *A Story Teller Forty Years in London.* By W. Pett Ridge. Hodder and Stoughton. 15s. net.

✓ **A**MONG the various minor men who have divided between themselves the mantle of Charles Dickens, none is more genial, or has a more intimate knowledge of London, than Mr. Pett Ridge. A good deal of his more inspired literary work is to be considered rather in the light of pleasant anecdote than æsthetic labour taking seriously to heart the technique of design and composition. It is, after all, an exaggeration of one of the pleasantest foibles of the master himself, so that we cannot take his disciple to task too heavily. In his present volume Mr. Pett Ridge throws off all pretences and, by determining himself to have a good time, allows us also to enjoy ourselves hugely. He has thrown open the gates of his memory, and allowed quips and cranks, after-dinner stories, whimsies, and caprices, to pour in upon each other pell-mell. He has just canalized them, as it were, along certain main directions, such as "Public Dinners," "Gentlemen of Leisure," "London Youngsters," "Charles Dickens" (as we might have expected), "Songs of the Street," and "Streets that Were." London has been very kind to Mr. Pett Ridge, as he himself allows, and it would not be too gracious to say that the present volume is a kindness to London.

It is true that upon certain occasions he produces the impression that the world was made for good jokes rather than good jokes for the world. He displays, in fact, a certain disproportion, to call it by no more vehement name. "I think that, allowing for the disturbance created by the four years' war, and the time needed to recover from it, our food supplies are now excellent," he writes. The treatment of this distinguished event as a regrettable interlude between one delicate menu and another, might cause a little discomfort in the bosoms of those who were direct participants in it. Moreover, he allows himself oc-

casional to lapse from his own high standard of citation. When he remarks that "black eyes have gone out of fashion—I felt quite amazed in coming across one in Hoxton the other day," you feel that he does as much injustice to himself as to Hoxton. Finally—to conclude the count of our petty grievances against him—his anecdotes concerning famous men are entertaining in themselves, but too rarely illuminative of the special and unique character he is for the moment concerned with. They can be interchanged and reshuffled without doing violence to anybody. For the rest, the reader can settle down to a few diverting hours. If he is a *bon viveur*, he will especially appreciate such an anecdote as the following:

"I want you to bring me," said a customer impressively, "half a bottle of Chablis, or shall I say Sauterne? Yes, the best Sauterne you have; and see that the cork is drawn carefully!" The other customer gave his order. "For me," he said, "half a bottle of Beaune—no, I think I'll have Pommery, '96; take the chill off, and bring it in a basket. Don't forget." The waiter went to the speaking-tube. "One small white," he called down, "and one small red!"

Not less entertaining is the story of the gentleman who made the acquaintance of Humphry Ward, art critic of *The Times*, on a railway journey. Cards were exchanged. A letter followed, with an invitation to dinner. "By the by," the postscript stated, "if there is a Mrs. Humphry Ward, bring her along, please!" We can only hope that the gentleman has survived to become the most devoted reader of Mrs. G. M. Trevelyan's recent biography of the illustrious lady. The anecdote reminds us of a Kettering shoemaker, by name John Shakespeare, who was entirely ignorant of the well-known dramatic poet (no doubt his ancestor) until a cinema film introduced the two worthies to each other.

MARK RUTHERFORD

✓ *The Autobiography of Mark Rutherford.* Fisher Unwin. 3s. 6d. net.

✓ **T**HE new edition of the late William Hale White's sparse but remarkable work in fiction, in six elegant pocket volumes, is distinguished by an admirable memorial introduction from the pen of Mr. H. W. Massingham, than whom nobody could be better qualified by taste and upbringing to appreciate him correctly. Mr. Massingham expresses Hale White's position in our literature, from the historical standpoint, very exactly when he describes him as "the only great modern English writer sufficiently interested in provincial Dissent, and knowing enough about it, to give it a serious place in fiction"; he was beyond all else "a student of the spiritual life and of its dawn or eclipse in members of obscure societies whose faith is fast perishing out of rural England."

Anthony Trollope, Mrs. Gaskell, Mrs. Oliphant, even George Eliot, though they occasionally touched on Dissent of the more prosperous kind, dealt in the main, as Mr. Massingham reminds us, with the England of the squire and the parson, the banker and the brewer; "none gave a thought to the thin, flat garden of the soul that lay between these great spiritual and social estates and the actual tillage of the soil." Many readers have a vague impression that George Eliot's great rustic epic of 'Middlemarch' treated of Dissent, but on careful examination it will be found that the varied figures that inspire its fascinating pages with such a vivid life are almost all Church people; even Mr. Bulstrode, though he had begun "in the Dissenting line," had taken to the Church in later life as "more genteel." Mr. Massingham is a thorough-going admirer of Mark Rutherford, and regards his books as "wells of truth and poetry, hewn from the spiritual rock." Perhaps the praise is keyed a trifle high for most readers; but thorough-going enthusiasm is no bad equipment for a writer of introductions.

New Fiction

By GERALD GOULD

✓ *Open all Night.* By Paul Morand. Translated by H. B. V. Chapman and Dodd. 7s. 6d. net.

✓ *Rubè.* By G. A. Borgese. Translated by Isaac Goldberg. The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.

✓ *The Heretic of Soana.* By Gerhart Hauptmann. Secker. 6s. net.

IT is a matter of custom rather than of etiquette (and I have no opinion as to whether the custom is good or bad, whether it ought in general to be kept or broken) that a reviewer should avoid reading the opinions of other reviewers before he gives utterance to his own—or should at any rate pretend to have avoided reading them. But there is one special case in which the custom, even if indeed it be a good one, ought to be broken. When the reviewer gets for review the translation of a work already well spoken of in its original tongue, it is obviously fair that he should give weight to the judgments that have been passed on the original. To admit that something may be very good in one language and lose some of its quality in another, is not to condemn the translator: it is merely to indicate the nature of translation. "Bless thee, Bottom! Bless thee! Thou art translated." Not that to be translated is necessarily to wear an ass's head: it is necessarily to look, and to be, different. The three books before me seem all to be admirably rendered. There is no stiffness, no awkwardness in them: they might have been written at the first in English. Only they were not. And somehow, in the rendering, some tang, some delicate ecstasy, may have evaporated. It is fair therefore to record that *'Open all Night,'* in its pristine shape as *'Ouvvert la Nuit,'* awakened in many critical breasts an enthusiasm which the English version certainly does not awaken in mine. To those who have read it, or propose to read it, in French, nothing that one can have to say about its English can be of much consequence. But the book is held important enough to be offered us by an English publisher for the English-reading public: and I cannot tell why. For my own part, I have not enjoyed it sufficiently to be tempted towards the original. Critics of weight, critics whose judgment I respect, have admired it extremely. I do not admire it—in English—at all. Mr. Middleton Murry has said: "A great many young Frenchmen have tried to do this kind of thing, and some Englishmen, but none of them have brought it off like this before." What is the kind of thing? The supposed teller of the six tales here collected is experienced, and at home everywhere, and the possessor of a light touch, and not at all afraid of implying, as any Englishman would be afraid of implying, that he is what in certain circles is called "a bit of a one with the girls." He talks about his "lustful, lying and inquisitive French soul." He gives details. 'The Catalan Night'—'The Turkish Night'—'The Roman Night'—'The Six-Day Night'—'The Hungarian Night'—'The Baltic Night'—those are the titles: and really it is all rather dreadfully like what those titles imply. There is wit there, and wisdom; but they seem of too narrow a sophistication. The wisest story—because the most human—is about a nobly ridiculous six-day cycle race. For the rest, there is a good deal that is cynical and "daring" on the subject of various types of women. It is a subject I have heard of before.

The appearance of *'Rubè'* was, according to the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, "the most important literary event that has occurred in Italy for fifteen or twenty years." Here again one would hardly have guessed

as much from the translated version, but, even in that version, the book is remarkable—full, various, painful. Filippo Rubè is a neurotic, but the story of his life is no mere study in neurosis. He suffers from that painful disease which throws everything, for the sufferer, into grotesque disproportion, because it makes him even more desperately the centre of his own world than the ordinary human animal is condemned to be. Most people, however egotistical, can get outside themselves frequently and easily: the sufferer from this disease can see nothing except as it torments or inspires himself. Hence *'Rubè,'* though it deals with the war, is not a war-book; the moving accidents play but a small part in it; the theme is what Filippo thinks of himself as cutting a figure in the war and in post-war disruptions. Towards the end, the torments become as private in their occasions as in their kind—only to turn back, after that gruesome interlude, to public affairs again, and to submerge the wretched "hero" as the characteristically helpless victim of a struggle whose significance his whole nature denies. The private episode interprets the rest. Distracted by a marriage never whole-heartedly undertaken, Filippo goes off by himself to the lakes and plunges into an intrigue with the wife of a French general. Pursued by the misfortune to which, as it were, he takes instinctively, he gets involved in a fatal boating accident: the general's wife is found dead, almost naked, with her face smashed in; and her lover is arrested.

Rubè had no objection to being convicted of manslaughter, even if he were sent to the penitentiary. . . . He thought at times of the concatenation of events, from the quarrel in the dell to the wreck of the boat, with that objective satisfaction aroused by the inevitable.

He knew that he was too rational to go mad; as for dying by his own hand, above all he knew that he was too unlucky. As the squall had capsized the boat at just such a point for Celestine to die and him to be cast upon the beach, ironically surviving all reasons for living, so it was likely that, even did he summon the courage to commit suicide, his hand would tremble or the bullet would deviate just enough to inflict an ignoble, painful wound and win him the derision that rewards feigned suicides.

Not a convincing reason against the suggested solution—if he had once embraced it with full intention. But fullness of intention is precisely what the Filippos of this world so seldom attain. Dreadfully dramatizing infinite alternatives, they shrink from cutting the knot. Hence the "objective satisfaction aroused by the inevitable": hence the aberration from every line chosen and pursued by the sufferer himself. He is too rational to go mad—not rational enough to abstain from contemplating madness as a possible way of release. It is all very horrible, rather dreary, but extremely well done. "Whom could he love if he detested himself?" That is the text. Or perhaps it is rather this—"Why, I'm a good-for-nothing! I'm an intellectual!" From the restless start to the barren close, every incident is told with power. What is lacking is beauty.

For that, we can turn to Hauptmann. *'The Heretic of Soana'* is not as successful as his *'Phantom,'* but perhaps that is only because its peculiar quality is harder to preserve in a change of language. For *'Phantom'* was a novel—a profoundly beautiful and poetical one, but still a novel; whereas this book is sheer rhapsody. The thread of narrative is slight, and far from new: the priest loves the pagan girl, and breaks his priestly vows. But there are many different ways of telling that story. Hauptmann's way is to lift it to the level of an eternal struggle between eternal powers. With the wild mountain scenery for setting, with every circumstance of terror and magnificence, he exalts the passion of human love. Fully to express his meaning, there would have to be a sustained lyrical loveliness of language. Perhaps, in the original, there is. There could scarcely be the same in the translation, unless the translator were himself a great poet. One has no right to expect him to be that: but he is an admirable translator.

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Authors and Publishers

A MISCELLANY

OCTOBER always seems to me the turning-point of the year. One looks back on the books of the last few months with appreciation, and forward to those of the winter with hope. There are so many new publishing firms on the watch for good work that no piece of even average merit can fail to have its chance. Yet what strikes me, and I think will strike the reader of our list of Autumn Books, is that the biographies and memoirs are, on the whole, the pick of the basket. I need not refer to those already reviewed in our columns, but there is good store still to come. The political memoirs have this in their favour—they are all written by men who know and admire their subjects, whether it be Mr. Spender on C. B., Lord Charnwood on Roosevelt, or Mr. Churchill on himself. Some of the non-political biographies are sure to be interesting: the contrast between the persons of Mr. Chesterton and of St. Francis will provoke a peculiar interest in what he writes about the saint who treated himself to sweet cakes on his deathbed; while if Sir Harry Johnston tells us his own story in the way he has told those of the heroes in his novels, we are sure of some amusing indiscretions. On the other hand, we may expect from the scholarly pen of Father Martindale a quite different view of the late Father Vaughan from that fostered by the cheap press of his day, and not discouraged by him.

Memoirs are not always entirely pleasant reading for the minor personages mentioned in them. I am reminded of this by a story of Mark Twain and Darwin in Professor Mavor's reminiscences ('My Windows on the Street of the World.' Dent. 36s. net), which I heard Twain tell a little differently. He had been taken to see Darwin, but the great man had been called out. However, he saw by Darwin's bedside two of his own stories, and thenceforth was used to boast that they were Darwin's bedside books. When the 'Life' came out, the only reference he could find to himself was that towards the end of Darwin's life, when he could not sleep he used to read the most trashy American novels he could find. Perhaps it is as well not to verify such quotations. That is a way to spoil stories. Professor Mavor's book is the kind of autobiography I like. He has met everybody interesting to literary men and scholars from the 'eighties on, and has something to say about most of them full of sound judgment.

I think that a season which has included two such notable books as Dr. Rice Holmes's study of Pompey, Catiline, Cicero, and Cæsar ('The Roman Republic and the Founder of the Empire.' Oxford, 63s. net), and Dr. Henderson's 'Hadrian' (Methuen, 15s. net), and is still expecting the fourth volume of the Cambridge Mediaeval History, can be said to be above the average in historical work. Dr. Henderson's work has the smart infallibility of a reviewer of twenty-three dealing with established authorities, but he does know his subject and has made it interesting. Dr. Holmes adds little to our knowledge of one of the best-known periods of Roman history, and the character of Catiline is still an unsolved mystery, but his story is lucid and all of a piece, interesting, and well written.

Speaking as a student of history, I think that the present day is the most interesting time to have lived in of all epochs. Since I was a youth we have added two thousand years to the documentary history of the world, the reading of three or four ancient languages has revealed to us the secrets of as many dead civili-

zations, and we have opened up the vista of a pre-history of countless millennia before. We trace unrecorded migrations by the ornaments of potsherds or the shape of safety-pins, or the roots of words. Hardly a line of the first volume of 'The Cambridge Ancient History' could have been written a quarter of a century ago, and every day is bringing fresh evidence of the past to our knowledge. In every field of later times the same activity prevails; classical, mediaeval, and modern history, all are screwed up to the highest pitch—even the aeroplane has become an instrument of historical research.

The season is providing us with some good collections of pure literature. The collected edition of Professor Saintsbury's 'Essays and Papers' is a book the possession of which every reader will desire; while the fact that he is giving us 'A Second Scrap-book' is one on which we can congratulate him and ourselves. I don't know how the collected edition of Lord Morley's works will go, but I still remember some of the minor essays I read in the *Fortnightly* as a boy when they came out, though I have not looked at them since. I wonder how they will stand re-reading. The publication of Sir Philip Sidney's complete works has reached another stage: only a poet should be his critic, but everyone can find something to admire in his writings.

The best thing in forthcoming fiction is, no doubt, Mr. Conrad's 'The Rover,' but there is another name or two on the list of which I have expectations of a different kind—gratitude, in fact. Mr. Oliver Onions does not write nearly enough for my pleasure, and I always look forward to Mr. Harry Leon Wilson's new books.

There is a special and undervalued kind of book, not great literature it is true, but the only kind one can read when exhausted with a hard day's work. The best Dumas, of course; some bits of Scott, 'Guy Mannering,' 'The Antiquary,' 'Quentin Durward,' and 'Rob Roy' can be picked up and read anywhere. Trollope's political novels—the Lady Glencora series—much better than the Barchinensis saga, to my mind—are very useful, and the best of Marryat and Lever are amusing wherever you open them. Among the moderns I owe a debt of gratitude to 'Bunker Bean' and 'Ma Pettingill' of Mr. H. L. Wilson, and in the depressing anxieties of the war years I was soothed by the easy optimism of Mr. Bindloss. Mr. Bindloss has only about half-a-dozen plots, and revolves from the Borders to West Africa, West Canada, and the prairie States; he has written them in half-a-hundred tales, but for reading when one is wearied he still keeps his merit. Mr. P. G. Wodehouse is almost too amusing for a tired man to read.

Lovers of poetry will find an ample feast spread before them this season. As a librarian my task is rather to catalogue them than to criticize, but when I read some of them I am terribly puzzled how to classify them. I used to think that the difference between poetical prose and poetry lay in rhythm: that good prose rhythm differed from verse rhythm in that the latter recurred at regular intervals while the former could not. If this law still holds I can only say that the rhythm in some of the verse I have recently read reminds me of nothing so much as the famous trousering pattern which required two men and a boy to show it off. After this, perhaps, it would be imprudent for me to mention any names.

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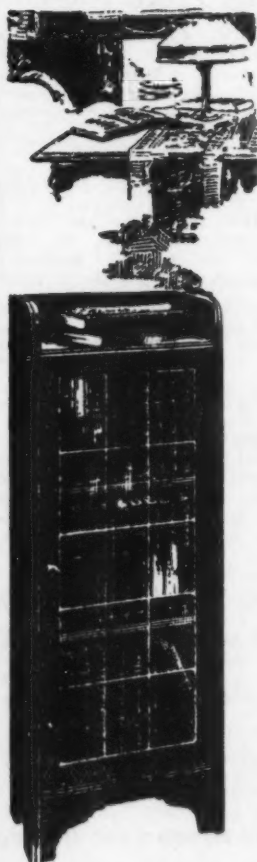
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10. Of light and life the primal fount curtain.
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10. Of this we are—true knowledge have we none.

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Q	uee	R	1 Nuns of the Order of St. Ursula devote
U	rsulin	E ¹	themselves to the succour of poverty
A	pollyo	N ²	and sickness, and the education of girls.
R	edbreas	T	2 "With that, Apollyon spread forth his dragon
T	erminu	S ³	wings, and sped him away, so that Christian
Experimentalist			saw him no more."
seR	O		'The Pilgrim's Progress.'
D	ewla	P	3 Terminus was the Roman deity that pre-
A	talant	A	sided over boundaries or landmarks.
Y	esterda	Y ⁴	4 See Ovid's 'Metamorphoses,' x. 11.
			5 Job viii. 9: "We are but of yesterday,
			and know nothing, because our days
			upon earth are a shadow."

ACROSTIC No. 82.—The winner is Mr. John Lennie, Southleigh, Murrayfield, Edinburgh, who has chosen as his prize 'Adventures in Journalism,' by Philip Gibbs, published by Heinemann and reviewed in our columns on September 29 under the title 'The Street of Adventure.' Sixty-four other competitors desired this book, eight asked for 'More Prejudice,' six for 'Hunters of the Great North,' etc., etc.

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Stock Market Letter

The Stock Exchange, Thursday

THE Stock Exchange continues to pipe in the market place, but the children, in the shape of the public, refuse to dance. There are about four thousand members of the House, and the number of bargains officially recorded as taking place every day averages about 4,500. Allowing for bargains which are done and not recorded, which may be reasonably put at a similar number, we can estimate that there are some nine thousand transactions being booked daily, or an average of rather over two bargains per member per diem. Assuming that each bargain yields a gross profit of £4, which is possibly a rather tall estimate, this would give £20 per week, as we are working five days a week. Reduced to this chilly calculation, it would appear as though the London Stock Exchange were not earning more than bread and butter, for expenses are high, and are difficult to cut down.

Maybe this estimate is drawn on the austere side, and one has to remember that, though one market may be stagnant, another is probably doing well. As the wheel of business swings in its desultory orbit, those who were inactive to-day may have their share to-morrow of more profitable trade. Luckily for us, the industrial situation is not sufficiently clear to induce manufacturers and trading circles to embark upon expenditure in their own business, the consequence being that money comes to us in the Stock Exchange which ought really to be feeding the trade of the country. It is not only, however, in Labour bureaux that unemployment is noticeable.

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7. Hag, demon, witch,—or long-horned beetle merely?
8. No more I'm welcomed by all nascent nations.
9. His pencil limned a master-mind's creations.
10. Of light and life the primal fount curtail.
11. Where heat and moisture reign, I shall not fail.
12. Adorns each leaf when morning gilds the sky.
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U	rsulin	E ¹	themselves to the succour of poverty
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R	edbreas	T	2 "With that, Apollyon spread forth his dragon
T	erminu	S ³	wings, and sped him away, so that Christian
Experimentalist			saw him no more."
zeR		O	'The Pilgrim's Progress.'
D	ewla	P	3 Terminus was the Roman deity that pre-
A	talant	A ⁴	sided over boundaries or landmarks.
Y	esterda	Y ⁵	4 See Ovid's 'Metamorphoses,' x. 11.
			5 Job viii. 9: "We are but of yesterday,
			and know nothing, because our days
			upon earth are a shadow."

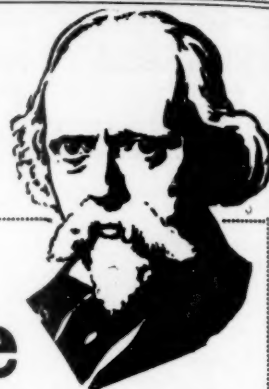
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Stock Market Letter

The Stock Exchange, Thursday

THE Stock Exchange continues to pipe in the market place, but the children, in the shape of the public, refuse to dance. There are about four thousand members of the House, and the number of bargains officially recorded as taking place every day averages about 4,500. Allowing for bargains which are done and not recorded, which may be reasonably put at a similar number, we can estimate that there are some nine thousand transactions being booked daily, or an average of rather over two bargains per member per diem. Assuming that each bargain yields a gross profit of £4, which is possibly a rather tall estimate, this would give £20 per week, as we are working five days a week. Reduced to this chilly calculation, it would appear as though the London Stock Exchange were not earning more than bread and butter, for expenses are high, and are difficult to cut down.

Maybe this estimate is drawn on the austere side, and one has to remember that, though one market may be stagnant, another is probably doing well. As the wheel of business swings in its desultory orbit, those who were inactive to-day may have their share to-morrow of more profitable trade. Luckily for us, the industrial situation is not sufficiently clear to induce manufacturers and trading circles to embark upon expenditure in their own business, the consequence being that money comes to us in the Stock Exchange which ought really to be feeding the trade of the country. It is not only, however, in Labour bureaux that unemployment is noticeable.

* * *

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* * *

The readiness with which sound stock is absorbed can be seen in the way that the public subscribed, within less than a fortnight, £16½ millions in 5 per cent. stock offered at 99 by Victoria and the Commonwealth of Australia. It is even more interesting to notice how industrial companies can dispose of their unissued capital in substantial lines, and on good terms. For instance, one well-known concern was approached the other day with an offer, on behalf of three firms, to take nearly a quarter of a million of its Debenture stock. Another company, with twenty thousand unissued 6 per cent. Preference shares, received a bid of £1 per share for the lot, from one source. These are but two out of a score of examples which can be quoted and which, in their turn, might be supplemented by many other cases where Stock Ex-

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NIGERIA GOVERNMENT 4% INSCRIBED STOCK, 1963

ISSUE OF £5,700,000. Price of Issue £88 per cent.

Interest payable 15th April and 15th October.

Six Months' Interest payable 15th April, 1924.

Authorised by Ordinance No. 1 of 1923.

£5 per cent. on application, and the balance payable as under :—
£50 per cent. on the 30th October, 1923. £33 per cent. on the 19th November, 1923.

The Government of Nigeria having complied with the requirements of the Colonial Stock Act, 1900, as announced in the "London Gazette" on the 27th January, 1919, Trustees are authorized to invest in this Stock, subject to the restrictions set forth in the Trustee Act, 1893.

The Loan is the first instalment of an issue to produce a total of £10,528,730, plus the cost of issue, and is raised for the construction of Railway, Harbour, and other Public Works in the Colony.

THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, on behalf of the Government of Nigeria invite applications for the above amount of stock, which will be issued under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, and will be inscribed in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Stock Act, 1877, 40 & 41 Vict., c. 59.

The Loan is secured on the general revenues and assets of the Government of Nigeria and the principal will be payable at par on the 15th October, 1963, by a Sinking Fund of not less than one pound per cent. per annum, the first half-yearly contribution being taken not later than 15th April, 1927, to be formed in this country under the management of the Crown Agents, who are appointed Trustees.

The interest at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum will be payable half-yearly on the 15th April and the 15th October in each year by Dividend Warrants, which, if desired, may be transmitted by post, either to the Stockholder, or other person, bank, or firm, within the United Kingdom. Principal and interest will be payable at the Office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London.

The Stock will be transferable at the Crown Agents' Transfer Office, No. 1 Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C.2, without charge and free of Stamp Duty.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent., will be received at the Crown Agents' Offices at 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1, and at 1 Tokenhouse Buildings, London, E.C.2, and the subsequent payments are to be made at the Crown Agents' Transfer Office, 1 Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C.2, not later than the dates above-mentioned.

In the case of partial allotment, the balance of the amount paid on application will be applied towards the payment of the first instalment. If there should be a surplus after making that payment such surplus will be refunded by cheque.

Applications may be for the whole or any part of the issue, but no allotment will be made of a less amount than £100 Stock or multiples thereof.

Payments may be made in full after allotment under discount at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum from 30th October or from any subsequent date.

Interest at £5 per cent. will be charged on instalments if in arrear, and non-payment of any instalment at its due date will render the deposit and instalments previously paid liable to forfeiture and the allotment to cancellation.

After payment by the allottees of the instalment due on allotment, they will receive at the Crown Agents' Transfer Office, No. 1 Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C.2, in exchange for the receipted Letter of Allotment, Scrip Certificates, which, when paid in full, will be convertible into Inscribed Stock.

Stock Certificates to Bearer, of the denominations of £1,000, £500 and £100, with coupons for the half-yearly Dividends attached, will be obtainable in exchange for fully paid Scrip Certificates or Inscribed Stock at the Crown Agents' Transfer Office, No. 1 Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C.2, on payment of the prescribed fees, and such Certificates can, if desired, be re-inscribed.

A commission of Five Shillings per cent. will be allowed to Bankers and Stockbrokers on allotments made in respect of applications bearing their stamp.

The revenues of the Colony of Nigeria alone are liable in respect of the above Stock and the dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are not directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the Stock or of the dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto (Act 40 & 41 Vict., c. 59).

Forms of Application, and a Statistical Statement relative to the Public Debt, Revenue, Expenditure and Trade of the Colony from 1913 to 1923 may be obtained by applying to the Crown Agents for the Colonies at 4 Millbank, S.W.1, or at 1 Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C.2; to Messrs. Mullens, Marshall, Steer, Lawford and Co., 13 George Street, Mansion House, E.C.4; to Messrs. J. and A. Scrimgeour, 6 Austin Friars, E.C.2; to the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., either at 37 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3, West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool, or at 106/108 Portland Street, Manchester; or to The Colonial Bank, either at 29 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3, 25 Castle Street, Liverpool, 21 York Street, Manchester, or at 67 Whitefriargate, Hull.

OFFICE OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
4 MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W.1.
12th October, 1923.

SATURDAY REVIEW.

This form may be used.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR NIGERIA GOVERNMENT 4 Per Cent. Inscribed Stock, 1963.

TO THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

GENTLEMEN,

I We hereby apply for £_____

say _____ pounds of Nigeria Government 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1963, according to the conditions contained in the Prospectus of the 12th October, 1923, and undertake to pay £88 for every £100 Stock, and to accept the same, or any less amount that may be allotted to me and to pay for the same in conformity with the terms of the said Prospectus.

I We enclose the required deposit of £_____ being £5 per cent. on the nominal amount applied for.

Ordinary Signature _____

Name in full _____

(State whether Mrs. or Miss, and Title, if any.)

Address _____


Date _____

Cheques should be drawn to Bearer and crossed BANK OF ENGLAND.

If altered from "Order" to "Bearer" the alteration should be signed by the drawer.

If the Allotment Letter is required to be forwarded to other than the Applicant, it should be stated.

N.B.—Applications must be for even hundreds of Stock, and must be accompanied by the amount of Deposit thereon, and the Application must be enclosed in an envelope marked outside "Application for Nigeria Government Loan."



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